

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A directory server comprising:
 - a supplier server;
 - a consumer server in communication with the supplier server;
 - a plurality of pluggable services that manage replication of data contained within the directory server from the supplier server to the consumer server; and
 - a replica update vector comprising entries of a portion of a directory information tree, wherein the replica update vector is used to perform a comparison to determine a minimal set of directory entries necessary to synchronize the consumer server with respect to the supplier server, wherein the minimal set of directory entries is the smallest possible set of directory entries necessary to synchronize the consumer server with the supplier server;

wherein the directory information tree is a hierarchical structure configured to store configuration information associated with the directory server, and

wherein replication of data is managed using the replica update vector.
2. (Original) The directory server of claim 1, wherein the replica update vector is persistently stored in a directory information tree.
3. (Original) The directory server of claim 1, wherein a memory representation of the replica update vector comprises a change sequence number pending list.
4. (Original) The directory server of claim 1, wherein the replica update vector comprises a change sequence number for each known replica and a description of a latest update received from a corresponding replica.
5. (Original) The directory server of claim 1, wherein the replica update vector is accessed through an application programming interface.
6. (Currently Amended) A method of updating a replica update vector, comprising:
 - requesting a replica update vector from a consumer server, wherein the replica update vector comprises entries of a portion of a directory information tree, wherein the

directory information tree is a hierarchical structure configured to store configuration information associated with the directory server;

sending the replica update vector from the consumer server to a supplier server;

comparing the replicate update vector of the consumer server with the replica update vector of the supplier server to obtain a minimal set of directory entries, wherein the minimal set of directory entries is the smallest possible set of directory entries necessary to synchronize the consumer server with the supplier server; and

sending the minimal set of directory entries from the supplier server as an update to the replica update vector of the consumer server.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising, exchanging the replica update vector at the beginning of a replication session.
8. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the replica update vector is persistently stored in a directory information tree.
9. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein a memory representation of the replica update vector comprises a change sequence number pending list.
10. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the replica update vector comprises a change sequence number for each known replica and a description of a latest update received from a corresponding replica.
11. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the replica update vector is accessed through an application programming interface.
12. (Canceled)
13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for updating a replica update vector, comprising:
 - means for requesting a replica update vector from a consumer server, wherein the replica update vector comprises entries of a portion of a directory information tree, wherein the directory information tree is a hierarchical structure configured to store configuration information associated with the directory server;
 - means for sending the replica update vector from the consumer server to a supplier server;

means for comparing the replica update vector of the consumer server with the replica update vector of the supplier server to obtain a minimal set of directory entries, wherein the minimal set of directory entries is the smallest possible set of directory entries necessary to synchronize the consumer server with the supplier server; and

means for sending the minimal set of directory entries from the supplier server as an update to the replica update vector of the consumer server.